

Appl. No. 10/634,198
Amdt. Dated 01/29/05
Reply to Office Action of 10/29/04

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transporting cargo over snowy and icy surfaces, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of elongate ski members each having front and rear end portions and a substantially planar top surface respectively; and

a plurality of clamping members connected to said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members, said plurality of clamping members being movable between forward and rearward positions and for receiving a bottom portion of a cargo and maintaining same in a substantially stable position during transportation[.];

wherein said plurality of clamping members comprise

a plurality of support members extending upwardly from said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members,

a plurality of adjustable arms each having a non-linear lower end portion connected to said plurality of support members and being movable between open and closed positions,

wherein each said adjustable arms is independently adaptable along a path registered with a corresponding one of said ski members such that one said clamping member can be articulated while another said adjustable arms juxtaposed adjacent thereto can be maintained at a static position;

each said clamping member includes a pair of springs such that each said adjustable arm cooperates with one said springs and is independently adaptable between raised and lowered positions as a corresponding one of said springs is resiliently compressed along a vertical plane;

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wherein each said support member is coextensive and includes a centrally disposed longitudinal axis traversing a longitudinal length of said ski members;
and

means for swiveling said clamping members for allowing said clamping members to maintain contact with the cargo when the cargo is tilted forwardly and rearwardly respectively, said swiveling means comprising a shaft member integral with said top surface of said ski member and disposed within each said support member wherein each said support member rotates thereabout.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original)The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said plurality of adjustable arms have substantially arcuate shapes.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original)The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said plurality of support members each have an elongate slot formed therethrough and for allowing said plurality of clamping members to move between forward and rearward positions when a cargo is tilted forwardly and rearwardly respectively.

6. (Original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality ski of members comprise adjustable rear end portions respectively so that a length of said plurality of ski members can be telescopically adjusted as desired by a user.

7. (Original)The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality ski of members comprise a female portion and a male portion telescopically engageable therewith and for adjusting a length of said plurality of ski members respectively.

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8. (Currently amended)An apparatus for transporting cargo over snowy and icy surfaces, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of elongate ski members each having front and rear end portions and a substantially planar top surface respectively; and

a plurality of clamping members connected to said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members, said plurality of clamping members being movable between forward and rearward positions and for receiving a bottom portion of a cargo and maintaining same in a substantially stable position during transportation, said plurality of clamping members including

a plurality of support members extending upwardly from said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members, said support members having a generally cylindrical shape and extending transversely across a width of said elongate ski members, and

a plurality of adjustable arms each having a non-linear lower end portion connected to said plurality of support members and being movable between open and closed positions[.];

wherein each said adjustable arms is independently adaptable along a path registered with a corresponding one of said ski members such that one said adjustable arms can be articulated while another said adjustable arms juxtaposed adjacent thereto can be maintained at a static position, said plurality of adjustable arms having substantially arcuate shapes;

each said clamping member includes a pair of springs such that each said adjustable arm cooperates with one said springs and is independently adaptable between raised and lowered positions as a corresponding one of said springs is resiliently compressed along a vertical plane;

wherein each said support member is coextensive and includes a centrally disposed longitudinal axis traversing a longitudinal length of said ski members;
and

means for swiveling said clamping members and for allowing said clamping members to maintain contact with the cargo when the cargo is tilted forwardly and

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rearwardly respectively, said swiveling means comprising a shaft member integral with said top surface of said ski member and disposed within each said support member wherein each said support member rotates thereabout.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said plurality of support members each have an elongate slot formed therethrough and for allowing said plurality of clamping members to move between forward and rearward positions when a cargo is tilted forwardly and rearwardly respectively.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said plurality of ski members comprise adjustable rear end portions respectively so that a length of said plurality of ski members can be telescopically adjusted as desired by a user.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said plurality of ski members comprise
a female portion and a male portion telescopically engageable therewith and for adjusting a length of said plurality of ski members respectively.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transporting cargo over snowy and icy surfaces, said apparatus comprising:
a plurality of elongate ski members each having front and rear end portions and a substantially planar top surface respectively; and
a plurality of clamping members connected to said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members, said plurality of clamping members being movable between forward and rearward positions and for receiving a bottom portion of a cargo

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and maintaining same in a substantially stable position during transportation, said plurality of clamping members including

a plurality of support members extending upwardly from said respective top surfaces of said plurality of ski members, said plurality of support members each have an elongate slot formed therethrough and for allowing said plurality of clamping members to move between forward and rearward positions when a cargo is tilted forwardly and rearwardly respectively, said support members having a generally cylindrical shape and extending transversely across a width of said elongate ski members, and

a plurality of adjustable arms each having a non-linear lower end portion connected to said plurality of support members and being movable between open and closed positions[.] ;

wherein each said adjustable arms is independently adaptable along a path registered with a corresponding one of said ski members such that one said adjustable arm can be articulated while another said adjustable arms juxtaposed adjacent thereto can be maintained at a static position, said plurality of adjustable arms having substantially arcuate shapes; and

each said clamping member includes a pair of springs such that each said adjustable arm cooperates with one said springs and is independently adaptable between raised and lowered positions as a corresponding one of said springs is resiliently compressed along a vertical plane;

wherein each said support member is coextensive and includes a centrally disposed longitudinal axis traversing a longitudinal length of said ski members; and

means for swiveling said clamping members and for allowing said clamping members to maintain contact with the cargo when the cargo is tilted forwardly and rearwardly respectively, said swiveling means comprising a shaft member integral with said top surface of said ski member and disposed within each said support member wherein each said support member rotates thereabout.

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15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original)The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said plurality of ski members comprise adjustable rear end portions respectively so that a length of said plurality of ski members can be telescopically adjusted as desired by a user.

18. (Original)The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said plurality of ski members comprise
a female portion and a male portion telescopically engageable therewith and for adjusting a length of said plurality of ski members respectively.